

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010

Commissioners Present: Joyce Abrams, Mary Alcock, Teresa Oyos, Tiffany Harrison, Mitz Lee, Bruce Abrams, Mark Dillon, Shonee Henry, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Carolina Alcoser Ramos

Excused: Gary Lynn, George Mitrovich, Roberto Shim, Susan Hawk,

Absent: Gracia Molina de Pick

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director (ED); Lori Thacker, Deputy City Attorney

Chair Abrams called the 217th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll Call: 10 Commissioners were present, 4 excused, and 1 absent.

Approval of Minutes – The March 17, 2010 minutes were approved.

ED Scarborough and DCA Thacker announced that DCAs will no longer staff certain commissions at meetings, including the HRC. DCA Thacker will still be HRC's main legal advisor and will continue to provide the HRC with legal advice, guidance on Brown Act compliance, presentations on legal issues, and will attend meetings on an as-needed basis. Rimah Khouri, Labor Relations Officer, will take roll and minutes for the Commission.

II. PRESENTATION: Census 2010 - Communities of Concern – Review of Participation Rates – Rita Andrews, Partnership Specialist; Lee Ann Cruz, Partnership (Chamorro) Specialist; and RJ Boyajian presented on the status of Census 2010 and the hard to count communities. The focus of the census is now changing. If surveys are not turned in, representatives will start knocking on doors. A demonstration was given on the Census 2010 website, <http://2010.census.gov/>, which tracks participation rates in the different communities. Currently, the nation is at a 71% participation rate, San Diego County is at 69%. Commissioners are encouraged to reach out to their respective communities and get the word out to complete the surveys. One way of getting the word out is to go to community and faith leaders and get them to talk about the census, and stress its importance with an emphasis on safety and confidentiality. The Census has outreach persons for various races and national origins including hard to count communities, like the South Asian and Indian Asian communities. In the local Filipino community, there are about 4-5 publications, where Census ads have been placed. They also have an LGBT outreach person. Commissioner Ramirez requested the contact information for

the LGBT outreach person and remarked that he has not witnessed any outreach to the gay community. Community non-responsiveness is due to indifference but also in large part to immigrant fear and certain communities being distrustful of the government. Census representatives will keep knocking on doors because of the importance of getting an accurate count. There are a number of upcoming events with community outreach opportunities – On April 24, 2010, there will be the Multi-Cultural Festival put on by the Pacific Islander Festival Association at Otay Ranch, the 39th Annual San Dimas Festival, the MS Walk, and the Linda Vista Multicultural Event. On May 8 is the Asian Cultural Event put on by the Mabuhay Alliance. Upcoming events also include the 95th commemoration of Armenian genocide and a children's celebration at Grape Day Park.

III. BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Cyberbullying Conference Preparation – Commissioner Dillon reported that the 2nd Annual Cyberbullying Conference will take place this Friday, April 23, from 9:00 at the Concourse. There will be 150 participants from different educational institutions. Dr. Justin Patchin will be speaking. They want to increase awareness and visibility of the issue, and due to tragic recent events the community is looking for possible resolutions to the problem. Commissioner Ramirez acknowledged the severity of the problem of bullying in general, in addition to Cyberbullying, and requested information on other types of bullying if available.

Harvey Milk Breakfast – Chair Abrams reported that ED Scarborough purchased a table for the Commission, so let her know if you will be attending. Commissioner Ramirez reported that Stewart Milk, Harvey Milk's nephew; Lt. Dan Choy, a national leader on the protest against Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and the 12 year old girl who did the report of Harvey Milk, among others, will be there. It looks like it's going to be a wonderful event at the Hilton. They already sold 850 tickets and expect to have at least 1000 people there. It will be held May 21, Friday. If you want to attend, it is \$40, to be sent to ED Scarborough.

County HRC - Chair Abrams and Commissioner Shim met with Ron Roberts, and Commissioner Ramirez had lunch with Bonnie Dumanis where they discussed a county-wide HRC. The prospects of getting a county-wide HRC are looking good.

Commissioner Ramirez expressed frustration with our lack of response from CAHRO. He requested that the Commission write a letter to CAHRO. Per DCA Thacker, due to not being properly noticed, this issue will need to be placed on a future agenda for discussion and action.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT –

Executive Committee Meetings – Chair Abrams reported that he tried to have an Executive Committee meeting that it did not work out due to Commissioners' time conflicts. To have these meetings Chair Abrams needs to have dates and times that work for those on the Committee.

Cesar Chavez March – Chair Abrams reported that he attended the march; also in attendance were Hueso, Gloria, and Sheila Jackson. The march started at Spanish Landing, went through the airport, and then to City Hall.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Report on Hate Crimes Coalition Meeting and SDPD Cases – This month there were 5 reported hate crimes, higher than usual. 2 were based on race, 3 on religion.

VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

International Visitors Meeting – Commissioner Abrams reported that this was an interesting event, which included 4 visitors, 3 from India and 1 guide. They were interested in learning about the Commission and were here for 3 weeks, from the east coast. Issues discussed included fair housing and homelessness. Commissioner Harrison reported that she was asked questions about African American issues specifically related to President Obama, and Commissioner Henry reported that they were interested in her culture, which she shared with them. The International Visitor Leadership Program is part of the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Meridian International Center. It seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through short visits to the United States for emerging and current foreign leaders.

Racial Disparities and Sexual Health Outcomes Forum – ED Scarborough reported that she and Commissioner Harrison attended a forum on racial disparities and sexual health. They presented a powerful educational activity contributed by Commissioner Oyos. There were speakers from the County, Planned Parenthood, SD City Schools, and Mesa College. The forum examined systematic oppression and race, and inequities in contraceptive use, abortions, and STDs.

UCSD Legislators Forum – Commissioner Dillon reported that he attended the UCSD forum, which addressed the "Compton Cook Out." Approximately half a dozen legislators attended, including Isadora Hall, Christine Kehoe, Lori Saldana, and Nathan Fletcher. Chancellor Fox and Dean Edley of Boalt Hall were also there. They discussed what happened, the history of racism in La Jolla, and that the campus reflects this history. It appeared that there is a lack of realization of how problematic this behavior was. They discussed increasing money to the

black student union and trying to increase minority enrollment at all campuses. The racial problems have been going on for a long time; they have surfaced, and will resurface in the future. This event has drawn attention to the problem and has gotten the attention of the legislators. Commissioner Ramirez suggested getting updates several months from now.

Cesar Chavez Events – Commissioner Ramos reported that the breakfast was good, but that the energy seemed low compared to last year. There were a lot of empty tables.

Commissioner Ramos reported that on May 7 and 8; SDSU will be hosting the Queer People of Color Conference. On Friday from 6 to 9 there will be an opening reception and the event will be at SDSU on Saturday from 9 to 7:30. It is a free event. She can send the agenda if anyone is interested.

Commissioner Lee attended a meeting of the Latino Unity Coalition, where the census program was presented. There were approximately 30 people there. She will be attending regularly.

Commissioner Abrams attended Keith's funeral service, which was very nicely done. Also, SDUSD will be selecting a new superintendent. Public input is being sought. One of the public input sessions will be held at 6:30 at PB Middle School this week. They are hoping to have someone by July.

SDIRC Executive Committee Elections – Commissioner Dillon will be on the SDIRC Executive Committee. He will still be involved in their media campaign. They are working towards changing views toward immigrants and are looking about what kind of campaign to have and audience to target.

Commissioner Harrison reported that on April 23 a fundraiser/walk will be held at N. Mission Bay to benefit students with disabilities.

Dr. Alan Chan, owner of Jasmine Restaurant, was present to support the census presentation. He got involved in the census to help with their need for Cantonese and Mandarin speakers, and is also able to help with other Asian communities. Many Asians were not counted in the last census and some Asian communities have distrust towards the government. The census partnership with community leaders and ability to reach hard to count communities is important in getting the data and money needed to assist those communities.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Prepared by Lori Thacker, Deputy City Attorney

Approved by Danell Scarborough, Executive Director